

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

--1(Currently amended). A method for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing table data based on a partitioning schema, ~~with~~ each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information associated with said ~~the~~ database, the method comprising:

(a) ~~identifying a partition identifier~~ retrieving information within said database catalog information associated with said desired data and relating to ~~in accordance with~~ the partitioning schema;

(b) ~~selecting the~~ identifying a partition identifier associated with a partition that includes data satisfying said query based upon the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information; and

(c) executing the query against ~~the identified~~ said partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

2(Currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein step ~~(b)~~ (a) further includes:

~~(b.1)~~ (a.1) storing the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

3(Currently amended). The method of claim 2, wherein step ~~(b.1)~~ (a.1) further includes:

~~(b.1.1)~~ (a.1.1) building a subset of the database catalog; and

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~~(b.1.2)~~ (a.1.2) storing the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

4(Original). The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further includes:

(b.1) resolving the partition identifier.

5(Currently amended). The method of claim 4, wherein step (c) further includes:

(c.1) executing the query and retrieving the desired data from ~~based upon~~ the identified partition identifier.

6(Currently amended). The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein step ~~(b)~~ (c) further includes:

~~(b.2)~~ (c.2) forwarding the ~~identified partition identifier~~ retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.

7(Currently amended). A database management system for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing table data based on a partitioning schema, with each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information associated with said ~~the~~ database, the ~~method~~ system comprising:

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a schema-lookup module to ~~identify a partition identifier in accordance with~~ retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

a partition-router module to ~~identify select the~~ a partition identifier associated with a partition that includes data satisfying said query based upon the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information; and

a data-manager module to execute the query against ~~the identified~~ said partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

8(Currently amended). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store ~~a portion of the~~ retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

9(Original). The system of claim 8, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

10(Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

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11(Currently amended). The system of claim 10, wherein the data-manager module includes:

an execution module to execute the query and retrieve the desired data from ~~based upon~~ the identified partition identifier.

12(Currently amended). The system of claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the ~~partition-router~~ data-manager module includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the ~~identified partition identifier~~ retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.

13(Currently amended). A program product apparatus having a computer readable medium with computer program logic recorded thereon for executing a query against a database to retrieve desired data, wherein the database includes a plurality of partitions for storing table data based on a partitioning schema, ~~with~~ each partition associated with a partition identifier and database catalog information associated with said ~~the~~ database, said program product apparatus comprising:

a schema-lookup module to ~~identify a partition identifier in accordance with~~ retrieve information within said database catalog information associated with said desired data and relating to the partitioning schema;

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a partition-router module to identify ~~select the~~ a partition identifier associated with a partition that includes data satisfying said query based upon the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information; and

a data-manager module to execute the query against ~~the identified~~ said partition, whereby said desired data is retrieved.

14(Currently amended). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a catalog-cache module to store ~~a portion of~~ the retrieved database catalog information in a database catalog cache.

15(Original). The program product of claim 14, wherein the catalog-cache module includes:

a build-cache module to build a subset of the database catalog; and

a store-cache module to store the subset of the database catalog in the catalog cache.

16(Original). The program product of claim 13, wherein the partition-router module includes:

a connection module to resolve the partition identifier.

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17(Currently amended). The program product of claim 16, wherein the data-manager module includes:

an execution module to execute the query and retrieve the desired data from ~~based upon~~ the identified partition ~~identifier~~.

18(Currently amended). The program product of claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein the ~~partition-router~~ data-manager module includes:

a client-coordinator module to forward the ~~identified partition identifier~~ retrieved data to a client application requesting table data.--